

So far as I am able to determine, this is the sixth specimen of White-fronted Goose reported to have been collected in New York State. Records available to me indicate that the five specimens previously collected (1844-1889) came from the Long Island area. An additional sight record (1889) also is available from that territory. And the only other point that I know in New York State from which the species otherwise has been recorded is Chautauqua Lake in Chautauqua County [Bull. Buffalo Soc. Nat. Sci., 4: 34, July (1881) 1883].

Unfortunately, since no visible part of the White-fronted Goose here reported has been preserved, this account must serve for verification of the record of a species which apparently has not been taken in this state in more than fifty years.—DAYTON STONER, *New York State Museum, Albany, New York.*

The European Migratory Quail in North America.—The account by John C. Phillips (U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Tech. Bull. 61: 38-39, 1928) of the widespread liberations of the subspecies, *Coturnix c. coturnix*, in the United States and Canada is very satisfactory but, if sporting magazine records can be trusted, may be somewhat enlarged and corrected. To his list of states in which these birds were released can be added Connecticut, Maryland, and Iowa. Phillips does not cite actual records of breeding, though the bird was reported to have occurred in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, and Ontario. Moreover, he says that, "after migration there was never any return movement." Observations of the Quail the year after introduction are noted for Maine (Everett Smith, *Forest & Stream*, 18: 28, 1882), Vermont and Pennsylvania (*op. cit.*, 15: p. 30, 1880-81); Massachusetts (Horace P. Tobey) and Connecticut W. H. Williams, *op. cit.*, 13: 927, 1879-80), and New York (*op. cit.*, 16: 453, 1881). The birds were seen for three years in succession at Allentown, Pennsylvania (*op. cit.*, 18: 223, 1882). Breeding in two successive years was reported for Connecticut (Sage and Bishop, 'Birds of Connecticut': 184, 1913) and Vermont (*Forest & Stream*, 11: 56, 1878-79).

The European Migratory Quail achieved mention in a few local lists and in Coues's 'Key' (6th ed., 2: 751, 1927), but has not yet been noticed in the A. O. U. Check-List. The facts appear to be that the bird was introduced over an extensive range in total numbers aggregating thousands, that individuals were seen in the areas of liberation for two years in six states and for three years in one state, that the birds bred in eight states—for two successive years in two of them—but that it did not become permanently naturalized. To sum up, it was a breeding bird in both the United States and Canada but it became extirpated. Probably there is no definite criterion by which such cases can be judged, and they exist in every degree from introductions that produced no tangible results to the entirely too successful colonizations of the Starling and English Sparrow. To what extent these histories should be recognized in ornithological literature is a question not easy to answer, but one with which the writer is faced in a large work now in preparation. Are there any suggestions?—W. L. McATEE.

Western Burrowing Owl in Clark County, Washington.—Specimen no. 91 in my collection, an immature male Western Burrowing Owl (*Speotyto cunicularia hypugaea*), was collected about four miles south of Battle Ground, Clark County, Washington, October 18, 1942. The owl was flushed from the edge of a small stubble field which was surrounded by brushy pasture land and second-growth Douglas fir. This habitat is altogether different from the open prairie in which

these owls are usually found. The region was originally heavily timbered. This bird was probably either a migrant from Northern Puget Sound region or a transient that wandered down through the Columbia gorge from east of the Cascade Mountains. This is the only Burrowing Owl I have seen in Clark County.—
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Great Black-backed Gull breeding in New York.—A pair of adult Black-backed Gulls (*Larus marinus*) was first seen in the colony of Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) on the north end of Cartwright Island on July 18, 1940, when I banded 145 young Herring Gulls. Cartwright Island, a part of Gardiner's Island off eastern Long Island, is about one-half south of Gardiner's. On July 4, 1941, Christopher McKeever and Geoffrey Gill, of Huntington, L. I., banded 165 young Herring Gulls on Cartwright while I banded the young Ospreys. On July 25, 1941, I banded 56 young Herring Gulls on Cartwright. On these three trips, the adult Black-backed Gulls were present on the north end of the island and would always fly overhead, excitedly scolding me while I was in the vicinity of what was probably their nesting area. Although I believe the Black-backs nested in 1940 and 1941, no young were found among the 366 young gulls banded in these two years.

My next trip to Cartwright was on July 10, 1942, in company with my son David and the Rev. Oliver Degelman of Riverhead. I had banded 30 young Herring Gulls when, upon capturing the next young gull, I at once knew I was holding the evidence of the first nesting of the Black-backed Gull in New York. The bird was nearly grown and would be flying probably within a week. Mr. Degelman photographed the young gull and it was soon wearing band no. 41-673757.

In comparing the young Black-back with the young Herring Gulls, I noticed that, in addition to the difference in size, the tail feathers seemed to be the best means of separating the two species. I did not wish to collect the young gull to establish the record, so before I released it, the central and outer tail feathers were pulled out as a definite means of identification. The tail feathers were sent to Ludlow Griscom and Robert C. Murphy and both confirmed the identity of the species, stating that the tail feathers were about as important evidence as a whole skin.

In 1921, the southern limit of breeding range of the Black-backed Gull was Nova Scotia, according to A. C. Bent (North American Gulls and Terns, Bull. U. S. Nat. Mus., 113: 79, 1921). The first definite breeding record of this species in Maine was in 1931 when 13 pairs were found nesting at ten different stations along the coast by Arthur H. Norton and Robert P. Allen (Auk, 48, no. 4: 589-592, 1931). In 1930, this species nested on Duck Island of the Isles of Shoals group off the coast of New Hampshire as recorded by C. F. Jackson and Philip F. Allan (Auk, 49, no. 3: 349-350, 1932). In 1931, the first breeding record of this species in Massachusetts was at North Gooseberry Island, Salem, as recorded by Richard J. Eaton (Auk, 48, no. 4: 588-589, 1931). Joseph A. Hagar informs me in correspondence that in June, 1941, he saw a pair of adults and caught two young on Wepecket Island off the west shore of Naushon Island in the Elizabeth Islands group in Buzzards Bay, Massachusetts. He saw a mated pair there in 1939 and 1940 but found no evidence of nesting. This latter breeding locality off Cape Cod is about 75 miles northeast of Cartwright Island, New York. The breeding range of the Black-backed Gull has been extended some 450 miles south along the Atlantic Coast from Nova Scotia in 1921 to Long Island in 1942. Cartwright Island now is the southernmost breeding locality of both Black-backed and Herring Gulls in the United States.